

Message Text

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63

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CAB-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00

L-03 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 /090 W

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R 140012Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2851

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 0934

E O 11652 N A

TAGS PORG, EAIR, ICAO, AS

SUBJ: ELECTION OF REPLACEMENT FOR ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 161710

1. DISCUSSED MATTERS CONTAINED IN REFTEL WITH PYMAN AND OTHERS AT ATG AND THEIR CONSENSUS IS THAT BOTH QUESTIONS, ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND REORGANIZATION, ARE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT FACTORS WHICH WILL HAVE A GREAT EFFECT UPON ICAO.

2. BINAGHI, IN THEIR VIEW, HAS BEEN SO IMPORTANT AND SO VITAL TO ICAO ALL THESE YEARS THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO THINK OF THE ORGANIZATION WITHOUT HIM. IT IS ALSO THEIR OPINION THAT KOTAITE IS NEITHER THE MAN BINAGHI IS NOR WOULD HE BE AS CAPABLE OF FULLFILLING THE POSITION. ATG FEELS THAT UNDER BINAGHI THE PRESIDENT BECAME ICAO'S MOST IMPORTANT FIGURE AND, THEREFORE, NO MATTER HOW STRONG A NEW SECRETARY GENERAL MIGHT BE, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO CONTROL THE PRESIDENT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS OF DOMINATION AND TRADITION. HOWEVER, IF AN UNREASONABLE OR EXTREMIST CANDIDATE WERE TO BE PROPOSED AS BENAGHI'S REPLACEMENT THEN KOTAITE WOULD BECOME MORE ACCEPTABLE AS HIS SUCCESSOR. IN ANY CASE THE NEW PRESIDENT HAS TO BE A SIGNIFICANT FIGURE.

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3. THE ATG OFFICIALS FELT THEY HAD INSUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE PRC'S AND MOROCCO'S REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS AND AGREE THAT UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE BEST ACTION WOULD BE TO REFRAIN FROM ANY INITIATIVES OF THIS KIND.

4. COMMENT: ATG HAD ONLY JUST HEARD OF BINAHG'S INTENTION TO LEAVE AS ICAO PRESIDENT AND HAD NOT REALLY FOCUSED ON IT AS A MATTER OF PENDING POLICY. HOWEVER, GENERALLY THEIR FEELINGS MATCHED OURS; INCLUDING NO IDEAS FOR CANDIDATES FOR EITHER OF THE POSITIONS. THEY INTEND TO BEGIN THE CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES WITHIN THEIR ORGANIZATION ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS AND WILL ADVISE US AS SOON AS THEY HAVE REACHED ANY CONCLUSIONS.
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